

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, US, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE SUGAR QUOTA

REF: A. STATE 22675 B. MANILA 13780
C. MANILA 14063 D. STATE 26559

1. CONTENTS OF REF A WERE RELAYED TO JOSE A. UNSON, ADMINISTRATOR, GOP SUGAR QUOTA ADMINISTRATION BY LETTER, WHO NOW HAS REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE ... PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT I HAVE REFERRED THE SAID LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, FOR POLICY GUIDANCE. PREVIOUSLY I HAVE MADE STATEMENTS TO USDA AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON, TO AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND TO YOUR GOODSELF (AGATTACHE) REGARDING OUR INTENTION TO FULFILL OUR US QUOTA. THESE STATEMENTS WERE OF COURSE BASED ON OUR TRADITIONAL POLICY OF CONSIDERING THE US MARKET AS OUR PRIMARY MARKET AND OF EXERTING EVERY EFFORT TO FULFILL OUR ANNUAL US QUOTA. WHILE I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY PLAN OR INTENTION TO CHANGE, ALTER, MODIFY OR REVERSE THIS POLICY, I OF COURSE AM NOT THE POLICYMAKER. FOR THIS REASON, AND IN VIEW OF YOUR REQUEST, I FEEL THAT I SHOULD FIRST REFER THE MATTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, WHO HAS THE FINAL SAY ON ALL BASIC POLICIES IN RESPECT TO THE PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY. END OF QUOTE.

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2. COMMENT. PRESIDENT MARCOS A FEW DAYS AGO ESTABLISHED A NEW

PHILIPPINE SUGAR COMMISSION AND IN SAME DECREE (OFFICIAL TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE) ABOLISHED THE PHILIPPINE SUGAR QUOTA ADMINISTRATION (SQA). NEW COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN NAMED AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN IT WILL COME INTO BEING. IN MEANTIME SQA STILL APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING WITH UNSON AS ADMINISTRATOR.

3. SQA HAD ALREADY STATED IN EARLY DECEMBER, SEE REF B, THAT PHILIPPINE QUOTA WOULD BE MET AND EMBASSY IS CERTAIN THIS ASSURANCE CONTINUES VALID. NOTHING IS KNOWN OF ANY PLANS TO SHIP SUGAR TO WORLD MARKET IN 1974 UNLESS US QUOTA IS FIRST MET.

4. EMBASSY NOTES THAT UNSON DID NOT REPLY AT THIS TIME TO SUGGESTION THAT PHILIPPINE SHIPMENTS BE MADE AS QUICKLY AND IN AS LARGE QUANTITIES AS POSSIBLE. IT SHOULD BE REMINDED, HOWEVER, THAT PHILIPPINES PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 14TH, AS GIVEN IN REF C, AN ESTIMATED SHIPPING SCHEDULE FOR 1974. PROTRACTED RAINS HAVE SLOWED HARVEST SO ABILITY OF PHILIPPINES TO RUSH SUGAR IN EARLY MONTHS OF 1974 BEYOND THIS SCHEDULE IS LIMITED. NONETHELESS, UNSON STATES THEY ALREADY HAVE SHIPPED 245,880 LONG TONS FOR 1974, AND ARE NOW LOADING 34,500 TONS AND ALREADY HAVE BOOKED SHIPS TO CARRY AN ADDITIONAL 347,000 TONS UP TO EARLY APRIL. HE FURTHER STATES THERE IS NO DELAY IN SHIPPING.

5. SQA ADMINISTRATOR ALREADY HAD LONG TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON GIVING SAME GUIDELINES FOR TESTIMONY AS STATED IN REF D. WE ANTICIPATE GOP PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE BY JOHN A. O'DONNELL WHO HAS REPRESENTED PHILIPPINES ON SUGAR MATTERS. SULLIVAN

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